

Annual Report FY 2009



West Virginia State Fire Commission

**West Virginia State Fire Commission/
West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office
1207 Quarrier Street, 2nd Floor
Charleston, WV 25301**

Phone: (304) 558-2191 Fax: (304) 558-2537

www.firemarshal.wv.gov

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State Fire Commission

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The Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety

Joe Manchin III, Governor

Charles L. Eversole
Chairman

Bill L. Spencer

Vice Chairman

John S. Bailey II

Secretary

STATE FIRE COMMISSION

1207 Quarrier St, 2nd Floor
Charleston, WV 25301

Phone: (304) 558-2191

Fax: (304) 558-2537

September 11, 2009

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol Building
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Manchin:

On behalf of the members of the West Virginia State Fire Commission, and in accordance with the West Virginia Code, I am pleased to submit to you the following Annual Report for the FY 2009.

The support you have shown for the entire Fire Service of West Virginia, the State Fire Commission, and the Office of the Fire Marshal is greatly appreciated.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission, if you or your office should have any inquiries in the future.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Eversole

Charles L. Eversole
Chairman



State of West Virginia
Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety
Joe Manchin III, Governor

Sterling Lewis, Jr.
State Fire Marshal

Phone: (304) 558-2191
Fax: (304) 558-2537

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
1207 Quarrier St, 2nd Floor
Charleston, WV 25301

September 11, 2009

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Governor of West Virginia
State Capitol Building
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Manchin:

In compliance with the West Virginia Code, Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 20, the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009 of the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office is submitted for your review.

This report is a representative, but by no means complete look at the myriad of services provided to West Virginia's citizens by the dedicated personnel of the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office.

Since 1909, the West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office has consistently increased its level of public service to the State of West Virginia through emergency response, code inspection, licensing and regulatory enforcement, public fire education, fire investigation, and many other duties.

This report is in part also a reflection of the efforts of West Virginia's fire departments, and the fire service organizations that represent full-time career, volunteer and part-paid departments. It should not be forgotten that on a daily basis, these brave men and women are ready to give their lives protecting their communities from fire and other emergency incidents.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterling Lewis, Jr.
West Virginia State Fire Marshal

SLjr/nlo

State Fire Commission

Mission Statement

To provide, through leadership, the best possible fire prevention and life safety for our citizens by legislation, education, training, standards, and resource allocation.

COMMISSION REPRESENTATION

3 members.....full-time paid firefighters
1 member.....full-time paid fire chiefs
3 members.....volunteer firefighters
2 members.....volunteer fire chiefs
2 members.....business & industry
1 member.....fire insurance industry
1 member.....registered architects

STANDING COMMITTEES

Training
FD Standards Evaluation
Building & Fire Code
Procedures Development
Special Issues
Public Education

COMMISSION OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN: Charles L. Eversole
PO Box 74
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Represents: Paid Firefighters

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Bill L. Spencer
247 Ocala Street
Clarksburg, WV 26301
Represents: Paid Fire Chiefs

SECRETARY: Chuck Runyon
83 Hunting Hills Drive
Charleston, WV 25311
Represents: Volunteer Firefighters

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dale L. Clayton Rt. 3, Box 431 Fairmont, WV 26554 <i>Represents: Volunteer Fire Chiefs</i>	Larry Goodwin 700 27 th Street Vienna, WV 26105 <i>Represents: Volunteer Firefighters</i>
Randy James PO Box 155 Gassaway, WV 26624 <i>Represents: Volunteer Firefighters</i>	Thomas Keefer 54 Riverdale Estates Winfield, WV 25213 <i>Represents: Business & Industry</i>
James L. Oldaker 114 Molly Branch Road Alum Creek, WV 25003 <i>Represents: Volunteer Fire Chiefs</i>	Ted A. Shriver 1051 Shawnee Trail Elkview, WV 25071 <i>Represents: Registered Architects</i>
Carl E. Sizemore 323 Price Road Mineral Wells, WV 26150 <i>Represents: Paid Firefighters</i>	Victor Stallard 375 Maple Drive Williamstown, WV 26187 <i>Represents: Business & Industry</i>
Bob Sullivan 6007 US Rt. 60 East, Suite 109 Barboursville, WV 25504 <i>Represents: Fire Insurance Industry</i>	Virgil White 5501 Kentucky Street South Charleston, WV 23509 <i>Represents: Paid Firefighters</i>

COMMISSION ACTIVITY FY 2009

- Held six (6) meetings as required by Code and one (1) special meeting.
- Discussed and implemented a number of training activities for fire departments.
- Approved over 60 equivalency applications for Fire Officer I and are continuing to evaluate and approve applications.
- Submitted the 2009 Fire Code and 2009 Building Code to Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee for submission to the 2010 Legislature.

State Fire Marshal's Office

Administration Division

STATE FIRE MARSHAL:	Sterling Lewis, Jr.
SECRETARY:	Nancy Olson
OFFICE ASSISTANT:	Leslie Racine
REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM COORDINATOR/ASFM	Shawn Alderman

Regulatory and Licensing Division

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL:	Anthony W. Carrico
ASSISTANT STATE FIRE MARSHALS:	
Michael Barrick	Matt Hutchinson
Timothy Mouse	Robert Tribbie
SECRETARY:	Tanya Bradshaw
OFFICE ASSISTANTS:	Deborah K. Lucas
	Valerie Carpenter

Public Education Division

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL	Carol E. Nolte
SECRETARY:	Pat Lynch
OFFICE ASSISTANT:	Alice Carpenter

Fire Safety Inspection/Plans Review Division

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL:	Clarence J. Leake
ASSISTANT STATE FIRE MARSHALS:	
John R. Akers	Bobby Light
Jeffrey Armentrout	John Oliver
Bryan Casto	Rudy L. Raynes
Norman Fetterman	Aubrey E. Smith, Jr.
Douglas E. Gregory	Michael Trabert
Maurice Hartz	Charles Vannatter
CONTRACT EMPLOYEE:	Terry Lively
SECRETARY:	Deborajean Hudson
OFFICE ASSISTANT:	Stephanie Litton

Fire Investigation Division

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL:	Eugene R. Cook
ASSISTANT STATE FIRE MARSHALS:	
Ronald C. Ayersman	Paul J. Gill
Robert Bailey IV	Bradley Hartley
Jason Baltic	Mark R. Lambert
Patrick J. Barker	B.J. Robinson
J. Anthony Domingo	Robert S. Rodes, II
SECRETARY:	Cathy Green

Regional Response Teams

Coordinator: Assistant State Fire Marshal Shawn Alderman

During the last calendar year, the Regional Response Team was again successful in completing monitoring and instrumentation upgrades that have been a work in progress since the year preceding. In addition, all breathing air systems have been serviced and functional tested, which now brings all units across the state into operational readiness.

To help facilitate the purchase of new equipment and upgrading of existing equipment, a Unit Leader Purchasing manual was written to assist with the proper procedures and guidelines to follow when utilizing team budgets, which are still set at \$10,000 per team. This alone saves the administration significant time and money.

In regards to training, the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force began monthly in-services in February and have managed to complete at least one every month since then. Most of the training is geared toward the skill sets normally utilized by Task Force personnel. In addition to this monthly training, three separate buildings were collapsed for real-world training settings, one of which was a thirteen-story brick office building of reinforced concrete construction. This particular building gained national spotlight attention as being one of the only buildings of this type construction to be utilized for training purposes.

The Task Force also sent four (4) personnel to Charlotte, North Carolina to train along with North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and their respective Task Forces on the concepts of Deployment Team Program Management. In this course, the fundamentals of writing incident tactical plans were learned and immediately implemented upon return to home. This has organized the Task Force and streamlined the entire operation as now virtually nothing is done without an action plan written beforehand.

There were a total of 13 missions completed by the Regional Response Units last year on a county to county basis and approximately 33 completed locally. The highlights of the missions were a radioactive cask fire on a tractor-trailer near Beckley; a tractor-trailer accident carrying hazardous materials with a fatality on the West Virginia Turnpike; and the Bayer Crop Science explosion in Institute, which killed two plant workers, one of whom was Barry Withrow, a well known member to the Team. Barry will be sadly missed.

Regional Response Teams (cont'd)

There were also approximately 17 PR/Standby missions completed last year, with the usual deployments to Bridge Day and CWIS exercises being the primary focus.

The challenges remain the same for the program: a lack of a general revenue funding stream still hinders the overall organization and with the need quickly approaching to replace outdated and obsolete equipment, it is becoming even more critical to secure a means of financial security.

Regulatory & Licensing Division Annual Report

*Deputy State Fire Marshal
Anthony W. Carrico*

Regulatory and Licensing Division

STAFF

Supervisor:	Anthony W. Carrico, DSFM
Field Personnel:	Michael Barrick, ASFM Matthew Hutchinson, ASFM Timothy Mouse, ASFM Robert Tribbie, ASFM
Secretary:	Tanya Bradshaw
Office Support:	Debbie Lucas Valerie Carpenter

DIVISION OBJECTIVE

The Regulatory & Licensing Division aims to provide a better and safer standard of living for the citizens of West Virginia by ensuring only qualified applicants obtain licensure, by investigating customer complaints, by checking for compliance with all applicable codes and regulations, by monitoring state fire departments and by providing citizens with information on State Laws.

INTRODUCTION

The Regulatory & Licensing Division enforces and interprets laws, rules and regulations and issues licenses relating to the electrical industry, the explosives industry, the fireworks industry, Building Code Officials, Electrical Inspectors, Home Inspectors, and Fire Protection Workers.

The Division also oversees, consults and assists all 448 certified fire departments in the State of West Virginia and provides information and guidance to new fire departments seeking certification.

As charged in State Code, the Licensing & Regulatory Division writes and updates in-house testing for eight (8) different classifications of Electrician exams as well as Indoor and Outdoor Pyrotechnician exams.

The divisional Supervisor assisted in creating and is regularly updating the new Fire Marshal website. He is the in-house Computer Network Technician, the Computer Purchasing Director and Legislative Liaison for the State Fire Marshal.

2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Complaints:

Divisional staff received and investigated a total of 21 complaints.

Electrical	11
Home	3
Inspectors	
Explosives	6
Fire Department	0
Code Official	1
Electrical	0
Inspector	
TOTAL	21

Fire Departments:

Volunteer	413
Part Paid	21
Paid	14
TOTAL	448

Fireworks:

Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Fireworks Display	221	\$ 12,192.53
Pyrotechnic Operator Licenses	370	\$ 7,200.00
Test Fees	72	\$ 2,790.00
TOTAL	555	\$22,182.53

Explosives:

Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Company Permits	233	\$ 85,630.00
Individual Licenses	1,440	\$ 89,090.00
TOTAL	1,269	\$ 174,720.00

Inspectors, Code Officials & Fire Protection Workers:

Type of Permit	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Home Inspectors	111	\$ 11,700.00
Electrical Inspector	55	\$ 5,075.00
Building Code Officials	11	\$ 550.00
Fire Protection Workers	516	\$ 73,700.00
TOTAL	197	\$ 91,025.00

Electricians:

Type of License	Number Issued	Total Fees Collected
Renewals	13, 444	\$ 676,051.00
New Licenses	1, 713	\$ 87,050.00
Temporary Licenses	1, 284	\$ 36,900.00
Late Fees	890	\$ 13,350.00
Test Applications	2,355	\$ 37,390.00
TOTAL	19,686	\$ 850,741.00

Total Special Revenue Collected FY 09 - \$ 1,138,668.53
Citations issued FY 09 - 43

Fire Safety Inspection/ Plans Review Division Annual Report

*Deputy State Fire Marshal
Clarence J. Leake*

Fire Safety Inspection/Plans Review Division

STAFF

Supervisor:	Clarence J. Leake, DSFM
Field Personnel:	
Randy Akers, ASFM	Bobby Light, ASFM
Jeff Armentrout, ASFM	John Oliver, ASFM
Bryan C. Casto, ASFM	Rudy Raynes, ASFM
Norm Fetterman, ASFM	Aubrey E. Smith, Jr., ASFM
Doug Gregory, ASFM	Michael Trabert, ASFM
Maurice Hartz, ASFM	Charles Vannatter, ASFM
Contract Employee:	Terry Lively
Secretary:	Deborajean Hudson
Office Assistant:	Stephanie Litton

INTRODUCTION

The Fire Safety Inspection/Plans Review Division staff consists of one (1) Field Deputy Fire Marshal, twelve (12) Assistant Fire Marshals, one (1) Plans Reviewer, one (1) Divisional Secretary and one (1) Office Assistant. The Assistant Fire Marshals are assigned to a designated geographical territory ranging from three (3) to six (6) counties. Divisional personnel also assist with the review of plans to complement the one Plans Reviewer. Two divisional personnel serve double duty as they are also assigned a geographical to investigate fires in addition to their inspection duties. All Assistant Fire Marshals serve as liaison for all fire marshal services with the local fire departments and the general public.

The division's duties and responsibilities include:

- Inspection of all types of occupancies except one- and two-family dwellings.
- Issue citations for fire code violations.
- Assists the Licensing & Regulatory Division in the enforcement of the electrician licensing program.
- Response to hazardous material incidents.
- Enforcement of fireworks regulations; monitoring of display sites, investigation of complaints, seizure of illegal fireworks.
- Enforcement of forest fire burning laws.

- Assist in conducting on-site review of new fire departments, substations and fire department evaluations.
- Regulation of aboveground flammable liquid storage tanks.
- Conduct fire safety training educational seminars and public fire education.
- Provide assistance to the Fire Investigation Division and other law enforcement agencies.
- Assist federal government in the implementation of the Federal Hotel/Motel Fire Safety Act.
- Response to disasters.
- Serves as liaison for Public Safety Officer Benefit Program.
- Administers the Certified Fire Inspector Program for NFPA.

This fiscal year, five thousand six hundred (5,600) fire safety inspections, consultations, and complaints were conducted by the division. This represents an average of four hundred sixty-seven (467) inspections per fire marshal. This shows an increase from last year due to the fact that the two fire marshals who retired were able to be replaced. Inspections continue to be prioritized and limited to certain occupancies.

In addition to fire safety inspections, a significant number of man-hours were expended conducting fire safety training and educational programs, complaint investigations, assisting the Fire Investigation Division and department training. Additional educational programs include: in-service training to county school maintenance and educational staffs, presentations to the West Virginia Landlords Association, Department of Health and Human Services social workers, West Virginia Advocate employees day care and Residential Board & Care providers and the West Virginia Hospital Engineers Association.

Professional development of our divisional staff continues to be a high priority. Our focus on technology will continue to simplify our business processes, making our services more accessible to our customers. Our divisional personnel are constantly striving to improve their skills and knowledge by attending advanced educational programs. This fiscal year one thousand three hundred thirty (1,330) hours was spent on training. Also during this past year, two (2) fire marshals completed National Fire Protection Association certification for Fire Inspector Two.

The Plans Review Section dedicates a significant amount of time and research to telephone calls and walk-in consultations regarding code interpretations. These direct contacts assist designers and owners with proper code requirements during the early development of the project under consideration. These contacts are not a formal review of plans; however, this procedure has proven to eliminate costly and time-consuming changes during the design and construction phase of the project.

This section accomplishes a formal review of the plans when construction documents are submitted. This is an in-depth review of all architectural and mechanical plans for code compliance. Specialized systems such as fire alarms, automatic sprinkler systems, hood suppression and smoke management systems are reviewed at the time of submittal of the construction documents.

This fiscal year one thousand three hundred seventeen (1,317) plans were reviewed. Of these plans, one hundred forty (140) were projects that exceeded one million dollars. In the past five years we have reviewed and provided construction inspections for occupancies for over three billion dollars.

During this past fiscal year, it became necessary to issue one hundred forty-three (143) citations for fire code violations. These citations were issued for various fire code violations, from tampering with fire protection equipment to locked exits. In addition, five (5) juvenile petitions were obtained for arson related fires in educational facilities.

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION DIVISION

LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS 2005 - 2009

OCCUPANCY	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
EDUCATIONAL	3040	3430	3152	2982
ASSEMBLY	247	279	230	337
HEALTH CARE	526	508	499	514
DETENTION	91	59	50	163
RESIDENTIAL	752	669	593	634
MERCANTILE	160	176	148	191
BUSINESS	642	691	545	678
INDUSTRIAL	40	45	38	41
STORAGE	22	28	20	55
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	16	9	5	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	5536	5903	5280	5600

2008-2009 LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS BY OCCUPANCY

	TOTAL INSPECTION	INITIAL INSPECTION	CONSTRUCT. INSPECTION	RE- INSPECTION
EDUCATIONAL				
Day Care	729	89	22	575
Schools	2099	18	238	1698
Colleges	154	2	17	120
ASSEMBLY				
Class A	101	1	52	10
Class B	76	4	49	11
Class C	160	12	75	29
HEALTH CARE				
Hospitals	248	1	69	130
Nursing Homes	144	0	11	119
Personal Care	81	3	13	60
Ambulatory Care	41	0	25	12
DETENTION	163	0	44	112
RESIDENTIAL				
Hotel/Motel	96	2	66	14
Apartments	218	3	99	12
Dormitory	115	0	25	73
Rooming/Lodging	94	4	10	72
Dwellings	0	0	0	0
Board & Care	111	6	10	87
MERCANTILE	191	7	114	17
BUSINESS	678	49	247	258
INDUSTRIAL	41	2	21	2
STORAGE	55	1	24	6
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS (Includes Dilapidated Property)	5	0	1	1
TOTAL	5600	204	1232	3418

* Initial inspections include only the first visit to a building or site.

* Construction inspections include all visits to a newly constructed or renovated building or site except for the first and final visits.

* A re-inspection includes inspections for licensure or normal annual inspection for other reasons.

2008-2009
OCCUPANCY PERMITS, CONSULTATIONS, AND COMPLAINT
INVESTIGATIONS BY OCCUPANCY

	OCCUPANCY PERMITS	CONSULTS	COMPLAINT
INVESTIGATIONS			
EDUCATIONAL			
Day Care	21	19	3
Schools	55	86	4
Colleges	3	12	0
ASSEMBLY			
Class A	17	18	3
Class B	3	6	3
Class C	25	14	5
HEALTH CARE			
Hospitals	31	16	1
Nursing Homes	7	7	0
Personal Care	1	4	0
Ambulatory Care	4	0	0
DETENTION	0	4	3
RESIDENTIAL			
Hotel/Motel	6	5	3
Apartments	75	2	27
Dormitory	3	6	8
Rooming/Lodging	3	2	3
Dwellings	0	0	0
Board & Care	2	2	4
MERCANTILE	34	15	4
BUSINESS	73	38	13
INDUSTRIAL	13	2	1
STORAGE	7	12	5
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	2	1
(Includes Dilapidated Property)			
TOTALS	383	272	91

* A final inspection includes only the visit to a newly constructed or renovated building or site where a certificate of occupancy is issued.

* A consultation is a visit to a building or site for discussion of problems and/or questions by the owner/occupant.

* The above complaints include Life Safety Code violations only. Not included are hazardous material, illegal fireworks, bomb threats, etc.

PLANS REVIEW ACTIVITY 2005-2009

OCCUPANCY – PLANS REVIEWED

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
EDUCATIONAL	144	126	185	145
ASSEMBLY	215	159	246	225
HEALTH CARE	113	113	119	146
DETENTION	25	10	6	22
RESIDENTIAL	93	107	113	119
MERCANTILE	159	158	171	225
BUSINESS	194	182	195	250
INDUSTRIAL	36	47	43	64
STORAGE	56	60	52	59
AGST	19	9	17	11
CARPET	28	32	31	51
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	1082	1003	1178	1317

PLANS REVIEW ACTIVITY 2008 - 2009

TYPE OF PLANS REVIEWED

ARCHITECTURAL	543
SPRINKLER SYSTEMS	260
HOOD SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS	81
FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS	347
	<hr/>
TOTALS	1231

***PROJECTS OVER 1 MILLION DOLLARS
PER FISCAL YEAR***

FY 2002 – FY 2009

FY 2002-2003	64 Projects
FY 2003-2004	88 Projects
FY 2004-2005	130 Projects
FY 2005-2006	121 Projects
FY 2006-2007	134 Projects
FY 2007-2008	124 Projects
FY 2008-2009	140 Projects

***MONIES COLLECTED FOR
THE LAST FOUR (4) FISCAL YEARS***

08/09: INSPECTION -	\$132,165.00
PLANS & REVIEW -	\$709,076.99
07/08: INSPECTION -	\$123,124.90
PLANS & REVIEW -	\$708,298.19
06/07: INSPECTION -	\$132,511.00
PLANS & REVIEW -	\$959,215.84
05/06: INSPECTION -	\$135,369.00
PLANS & REVIEW -	\$779,206.20

Fire Investigation Division Annual Report

*Deputy State Fire Marshal
Eugene R. Cook*

Fire Investigation Division

STAFF

Supervisor:

Eugene R. Cook, DSFM

Field Personnel:

Ronald Ayersman, ASFM

Paul Gill, ASFM

Robbie Bailey, ASFM

Brad Hartley, ASFM

Jason Baltic, ASFM

Mark Lambert, ASFM

Patrick Barker, ASFM

B.J. Robinson, ASFM

Anthony Domingo, ASFM

Robert Scott Rodes II, ASFM

Secretary:

Cathy Green

INTRODUCTION

The Investigation Division's currently authorized staffing level is one (1) Field Deputy State Fire Marshal, ten (10) Assistant State Fire Marshals and one (1) Secretary.

Each Fire Marshal has a designated geographical territory ranging in size from four (4) to eight (8) counties. The Fire Marshals' primary duties encompass all aspects of fire/arson identification and enforcement, including determining fire origin and cause, fire death investigations, executing state or federal search/arrest warrants and subsequently giving expert testimony in criminal or civil trials. In addition, each Fire Marshal is responsible for explosives-related investigation/enforcement in his respective area. Many non-arson related violations are identified during the course of an arson investigation, and are generally referred to other federal, state or local law enforcement agencies for prosecution.

This fiscal year 970 investigations were conducted, compared to 974 for the same period in the previous year.

The diligent, professional work of the Division's Fire Marshals continues to give West Virginia an excellent arson case resolution record; however, the objective of a reduction in the total number of incendiary fires has not been achieved. The sustained operation of the Arson Hotline (1-800-233-FIRE) made possible by a generous grant from the WV FAIR PLAN continues to enable the State Fire Marshal to better define the scope and severity of the continuing arson problem in West Virginia, and in providing quicker investigative response and making monetary rewards available for information leading to the arrest of arsonists.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

Requests for fire investigations from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 decreased by four (4) cases. This is directly attributed to increased direct, positive interaction among Fire Marshals, fire service, law enforcement and to better initial fire cause determinations being made prior to calling for assistance. This is also a direct result of Fire Marshals providing advanced in-service training classes to fire/law enforcement agencies and the insurance communities with more widespread use of the statewide toll-free "800" Arson Hotline.

CAUSE DETERMINATION	FY 2009
INCENDIARY	403
ACCIDENTAL	90
UNDETERMINED/ PENDING	477
TOTAL	970

OCCUPANCY TYPE	FY 2009
ASSEMBLY	4
BUSINESS	78
CORRECTIONS	1
EDUCATIONAL	16
GRASSLANDS	5
INDUSTRIAL	10
MERCANTILE	2
RESIDENCE	704
STORAGE	53
VEHICLE	64
HEALTH CARE	0
UNUSUAL	33

FIRE-RELATED DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

This fiscal year, 57 fire-related deaths in 48 fires have been investigated. This has increased from the previous year by 15. It must be noted that West Virginia continues to experience a grossly unacceptable rate per capita. Only proactive statewide fire safety programs will begin to reduce these alarming statistics.

FIRE-RELATED DEATH INVESTIGATIONS (cont'd)

While many of these deaths were either directly or indirectly caused by alcohol/drug abuses, the majority were preventable through increased fire safety awareness by the public, use of smoke detectors, statewide fire code enforcement and increased media attention to fire safety as an important year-round topic.

Occupancy Type	FY 2009
Dwellings: One- and Two-Family	27
Dwellings: Multi-Family	2
Dwellings: Mobile Homes	14
Vehicle	1
Industrial	1
Grasslands	1
Other	2

This fiscal year, Fire Marshals conducted seven (7) fire death investigations where the fire was determined to be incendiary in nature; therefore, the manner of death was homicide. The breakdown of the disposition of homicides is as follows:

Cleared by arrest: Fire Marshals charging defendant(s) with First Degree Arson and/or other felony charges	3
Suicides, no other action taken	2
Unsolved, still pending	2
Total Number of Deaths Resulting From Arson Fires	11

ARRESTS FY 2009

Total Number of Arrests	96
Adult	86
Juvenile	10
Charges	163

TRAINING GIVEN

Fire Marshals continued to provide direct and indirect training programs in the areas of fire/arson and explosives investigation to fire service and law enforcement agencies throughout the state. This support primarily involved providing instructors for formal training programs for the Governor's Committee-approved law enforcement in-service training programs, and informal training classes at county fire schools, fire departments and task force meetings.

Listed below are the classes this division teaches:

- Level I Fire Investigation
- Level II Fire Investigation
- Level III Fire Investigation
- Explosives Recognition for Public Safety Officers
- Miscellaneous Training
(training presented to fire and police departments, civic groups,
insurance groups, etc.)

TRAINING RECEIVED

All Fire Marshals continue to receive advanced training from the National Fire Academy, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and other nationally accredited training courses.

Public Education Division Annual Report

*Deputy State Fire Marshal
Carol E. Nolte*

Public Education Division

STAFF

Supervisor:	Carol E. Nolte, DSFM
Office staff:	Pat Lynch Alice Carpenter

INTRODUCTION

The Public Education Division staff currently consists of one Field Deputy Fire Marshal and two Office Assistants (OA2).

The Public Education Division is responsible for duties which include, but are not limited to fire and injury prevention education (primary); media communications; oversight, coordination and support services for mandatory incident reporting and data management for West Virginia's fire departments; oversight for quarterly funding eligibility for part-paid and volunteer fire departments; and assistance in coordination of continuing training for deputized assistant fire marshals. The division also processes and issues Emergency Vehicle Permits for all West Virginia fire departments.

Additionally, one of the division's office assistants has received training in and is partially responsible for posting information on the Fire Marshal's website.

The Public Education Division promotes programs that aim to reduce loss of life and property through education via the following services:

- Fire and injury prevention for all groups, including high-risk (seniors, people with disabilities, young children)
- Train-the-trainer instruction in public fire/life safety education for firefighters and other emergency responders
- Fireworks law and safety for general audiences
- In-service training for children's fire/injury prevention conducted for teachers and caregivers
- Emergency planning/fire safety for public facilities
- Public speaking for civic, governmental and advocacy organizations
- Participation in health and public safety fairs/seminars, and career days
- Membership and active participation in health/safety organizations
- Press conferences, TV and radio interviews
- Notices to fire departments and SFM website (informational including safety topics, educational, reporting and training requirements, etc.)
- Press releases on fire safety and related topics
- Grant writing to seek funding for fire and life safety projects
- Coordination of grant writing workshops for fire departments
- Coordinating loan and distribution of educational materials to fire departments, safety groups, schools, businesses and the general public

SPECIAL PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2009:

- *Coordinated four (4) US Assistance to Firefighter Grant workshops in the following locations:*
 - State Fire Academy – March 9, 2009
 - Racine VFD – March 10, 2009
 - Lewisburg VFD – March 11, 2009
 - Pineville VFD – March 12, 2009
- *500 smoke alarms were distributed at the WV State Seniors' Conference* at Cedar Lakes, Jackson County, in May 2009. All seniors attending received a free smoke alarm and a brochure on senior fire safety.
- *National Fire Prevention Week 2008 Activities:*
 - 100 smoke alarms and fire safety pamphlets were donated by the SFMO for distribution during National Fire Prevention Week by WCHS Talk Radio (Charleston).
 - Public Education Officer provided live interview w/WCHS Talk Radio on smoke alarms and home fire prevention.
 - Partnered with WV Office of Emergency Medical Services Trauma Division and McDonald's to provide placemats to customers in over 40 McDonald's restaurants.
 - Press releases on Fire Prevention Week mailed out to all media contacts.
- *Fire-Safe Cigarette Legislation (FSC):* This legislation was pursued by the State Fire Marshal's Office in 2008 but failed late in that Legislative Session. Since that time, through the close of FY 2009, the Public Education Officer has actively promoted awareness and support of this legislation, including letters of support, SFMO website notices, and media contacts. Senate Bill 456, "Reduced Cigarette Ignition Propensity Standard and Fire Prevention Act" was re-introduced by Senators Foster, Kessler and Unger in the 2009 Legislative Session and went into effect on July 1, 2009. The Public Education Division has been assigned oversight and management of the fire-safe cigarette program to ensure that all cigarette manufacturers selling their products in West Virginia can produce documentation confirming that all their listed cigarettes have been tested in accordance with recognized standards and have met those standards.
- *Novelty Cigarette Lighters Legislation:* The SFMO/Public Education Officer pursued legislation in the 2009 Session to prohibit sales of novelty cigarette lighters. These lighters resemble various types of items, including toys, that are attractive to children. Fire deaths in other states involving small children and novelty lighters have prompted a national movement among fire service groups to enact legislation that controls and/or prohibits sales of these lighters—many of which have

been recalled over the years by the Consumer Product Safety Commission for safety defects. Although the bill failed to progress in the 2009 Session, the SFMO will again pursue legislation in the FY 2010 session.

MEDIA ACTIVITIES IN FY 2009

- TV, Radio and Newspaper Interviews: 5
- Press Releases: 7
- Billboard project: 1
- Coordinated production of a promotional DVD about the duties of the WV State Fire Marshal's Office that was sent to all WV fire departments and can be used by SFMO personnel as an awareness tool. This video is also accessible on the SFMO website.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES IN FY 2009

- Coordinated SFMO tables/booths at safety/health fairs/expos: 4
- Presentations/training sessions given on various fire safety topics: 9
- Assisted in coordinating 5 seminars: 2 on workplace safety for fire wardens and 3 for code enforcement personnel.

TRAINING RECEIVED IN FY 2009

Training received by Public Education Officer included, but was not limited to, seminars/classes on NIMS 300, NIMS 400, NFPA 101/NFPA 1; crowd manager training; IP phone system.

NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM (NFIRS)

The Public Education Division is responsible for administration of the state's fire and non-fire incident reporting system. On a daily basis, the division actively supports and promotes the use of computer-based reporting in an NFIRS-compatible format by all 448 fire departments in an effort to standardize and expedite incident reporting in West Virginia. This enables both the Fire Marshal's Office and fire departments to access statistics that better reflect specific fire and life-safety trends and needs.

The Public Education Division continued to offer and conduct 8-hpur NFIRS training courses for fire departments. The following NFIRS classes were provided in FY 2009:

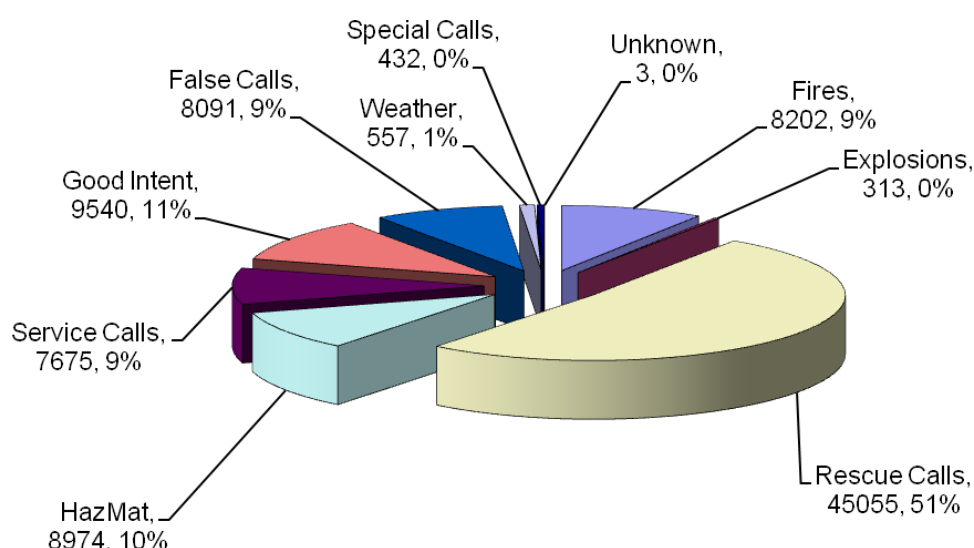
Wood County (RESA V)
Summers County (Pipestem/State EMS Conference)



NFIRS Class at ESCAPE State EMS Conference

WEST VIRGINIA FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE FY 2009

TYPES OF CALLS



Note: Total number of calls represented above do not include all NFIRS incident types. The incident types above were selected to reflect some of the most frequently occurring responses by fire departments.

Code Series Legend (partial):

Service Calls – include person in distress, water problem, smoke/odor problem, animal problem or rescue, public service assistance; unauthorized burning (includes fires under control and not endangering property), cover assignment/standby at fire station/move-up and service call, other.

Good Intent Calls – include dispatched & cancelled enroute; wrong location, no emergency found; controlled burning; vicinity alarm; steam, other gas mistaken for smoke; EMS call where party has been transported; HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat found; good intent call, other.

False Alarm & False Calls – include malicious/mischiefous false alarms; bomb scare; system or detector malfunction; unintentional system or detector operation (no fire); biohazard scare; false alarm or false call, other.

Special Calls – Citizen's complaint, includes reports of code or ordinance violation; special type of incident, other.

Total number of FD responses for FY 2009	
(All incident types):	88,842
Total number of FD responses	
(Fire calls only):	8,202
Total number of FD responses	
(EMS calls only):	45,055
Total number of FD responses	
(non-fire & non-EMS):	35,585

Total incidents (all types) run by	
Paid fire departments:	28,891
Total incidents (all types) run by	
Part-paid and volunteer fire departments	76,270

MUTUAL AID INCIDENTS FY 2009

*Mutual aid given incidents to paid FD's:	225
*Mutual aid given incidents to vol. & pt.pd FD's:	16,667

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) used by the State of West Virginia includes Mutual Aid incidents under the following descriptor:

- **Aid Given (automatic or mutual):** A fire department responds into another fire department's jurisdiction to provide assistance at an incident or to cover a vacated station while the receiving fire department is busy at an incident.

According to NFIRS, "aid information can be used to study response levels necessary to control various fire and emergency situations. It can be used to determine the adequacy of resources at the local level and the need for adjusting cooperative agreements. The Aid Given or Received entry serves as data control to ensure that the same incident is not counted more than once while still giving credit for activity performed by outside departments."

FIRE IN WEST VIRGINIA FY 2009



The fire problem varies from region to region in the United States. This can be a result of poverty, education, demographics, and other causal factors. According to NFPA's September 2007 publication "U.S. Unintentional Death Rates by State", West Virginia ranks among the highest 10 states on four of the major correlating factors for fire deaths: poverty, education, smokers, and rural population.

West Virginia is consistently a high-risk state for fire deaths due in part to its rural population, high number of smokers, high number of older citizens and people with disabilities, significant number of people living at or below poverty level, lower levels of education, and other factors.

Statistics reflecting smoke alarm use and operation for the state continue to paint a disturbing picture in terms of inadequate residential fire protection. Although the Public Education Division has increased the number of smoke alarms distributed over the past few years, much more needs to be done at both the state and the community levels.

The above risk factors and statistics point to a critical need for increased fire protection in the home. Residential fire sprinklers, when used in conjunction with smoke detectors, can result in survival rates of over 90%. This is a tremendous boost to life safety, especially given the fact that most fire deaths continue to happen in the home. Legislation is being sought to require these systems in all new residential construction.

As to the capabilities of this agency in providing leadership in public fire education, increased services such as fire prevention campaigns, establishment of juvenile firesetter intervention networks and programs, and other outreach measures will not readily become realities unless and until additional Public Education Officers are added to the SFMO staff.

West Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System (National Fire Incident Reporting System – NFIRS)

All following data is based on NFIRS statistics as submitted by West Virginia's fire departments. The State of West Virginia utilizes the NFIRS Version 5.0 Federal Client Tool to coordinate fire and non-fire data.

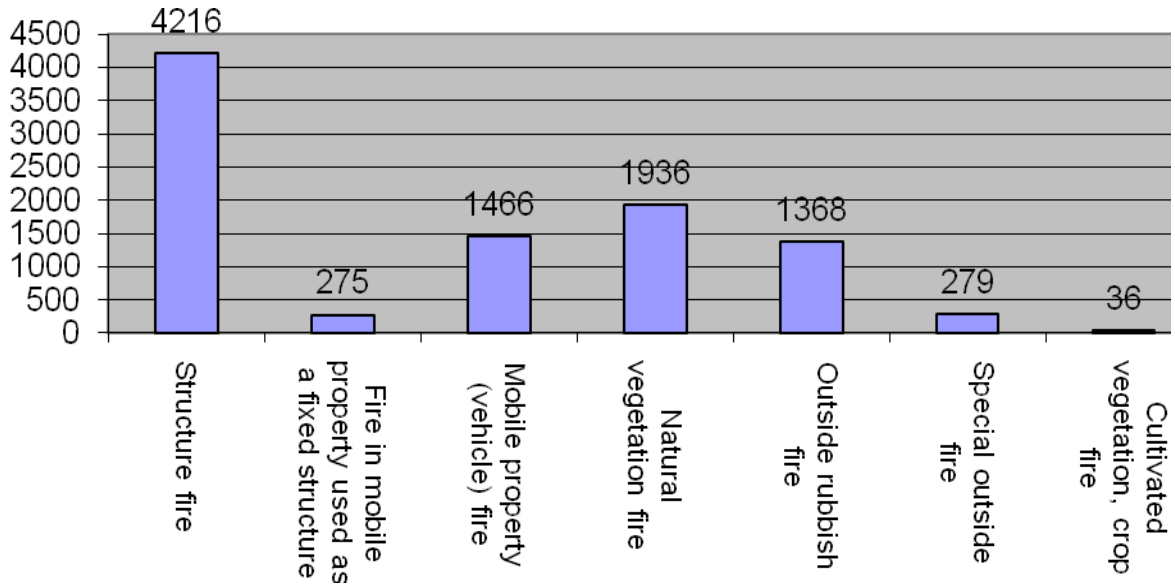
Data gathered by use of on-line, USFA vendor-approved software is acceptable to the SFMO. In cases where fire departments choose to use independently purchased software, the Public Education Division cannot provide system-specific tech support but will assist in providing all other information needed to report in the NFIRS.

FIRE IN WEST VIRGINIA FY 2009

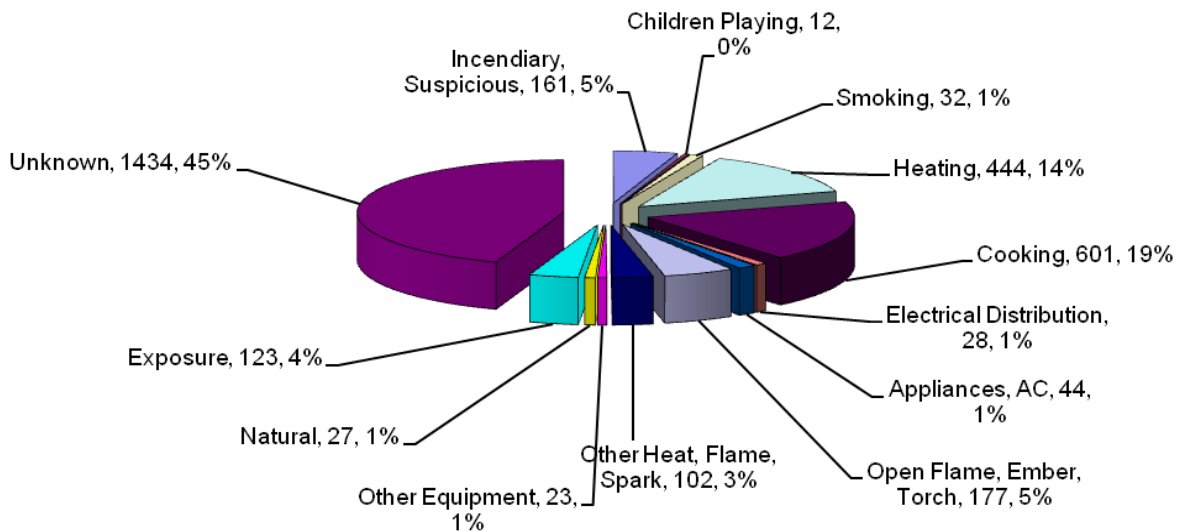
Civilian deaths:	43 *
Civilian injuries:	105
Firefighter deaths:	2
Firefighter injuries:	101 **
Total [estimated] fire loss:	\$130,747,938

- *** As reported by WV FD's using NFIRS Version 5.0. *Number of fire fatalities reported by FD's differs from SFMO Fire Investigation Division statistics, which show 57 fire deaths for this fiscal year.*** This is in part likely due to lack of follow-up as to fire victims transported out of area to burn centers for treatment, and later died (fire department did not update existing fire report to reflect change from fire injury to fire death); victims who died in incidents in which no fire department was called; and other factors.
- **** This includes ALL types of injury to firefighters, including fire/smoke, vehicle, explosions, falls, training injuries, etc.**

REPORTED FIRES FY 2009 (Selected types)

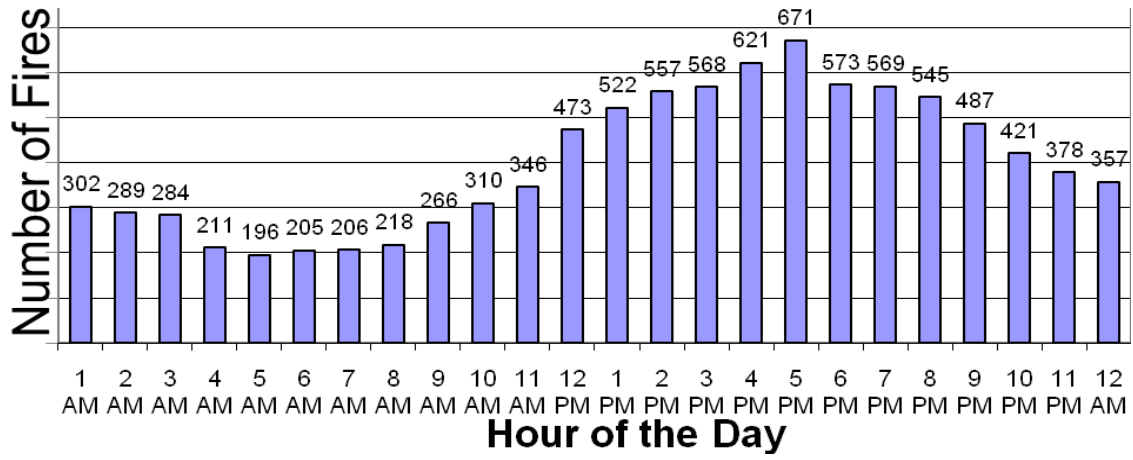


FIRE CAUSES IN WEST VIRGINIA FY 2009

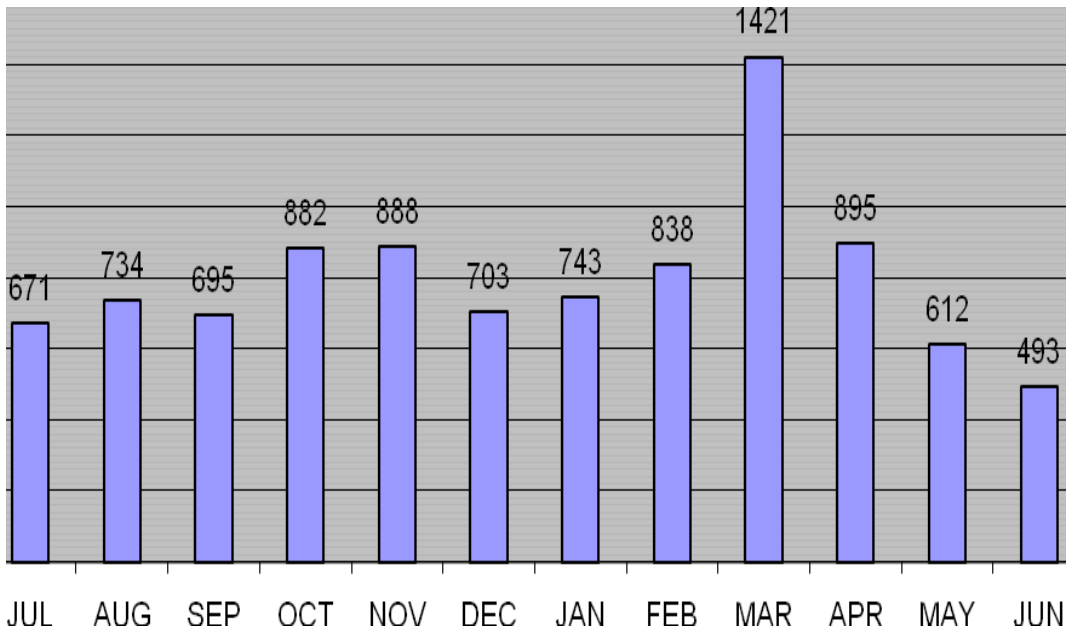


Note: Total number of structure fire causes represented above do NOT include all NFIRS incident codes for fire cause. The categories above were selected to reflect some of the most frequently occurring fire causes.

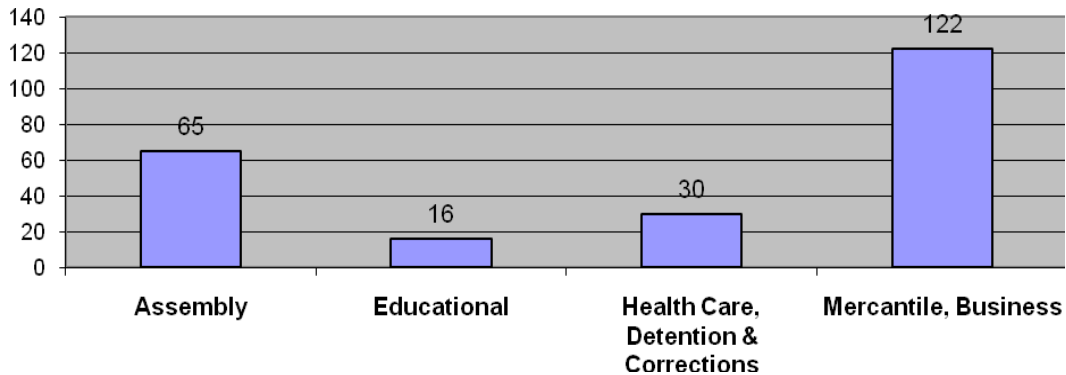
FIRE INCIDENTS BY TIME OF DAY FY 2009



FIRE INCIDENTS BY MONTH FY 2009



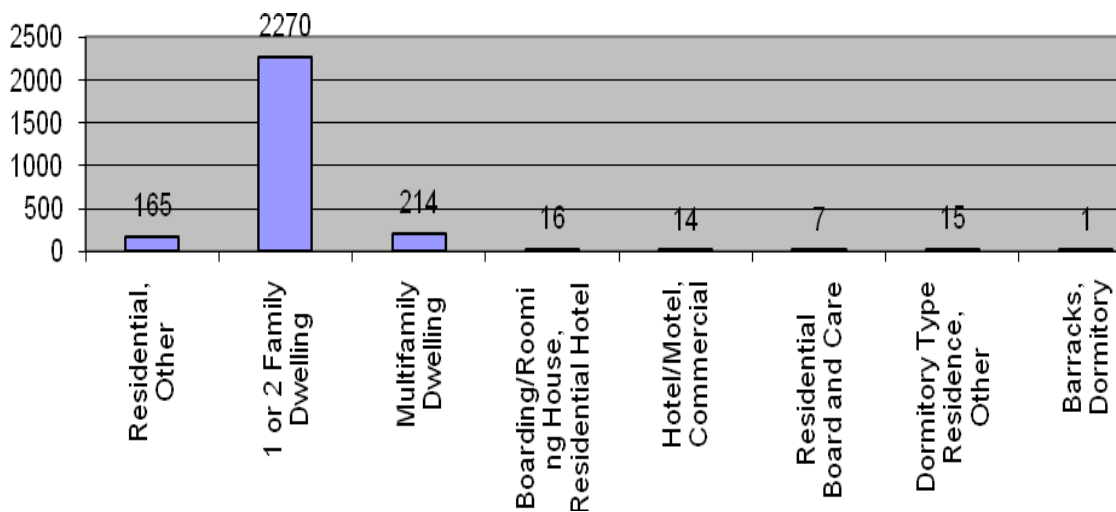
PUBLIC PROPERTY STRUCTURE FIRES FY 2009



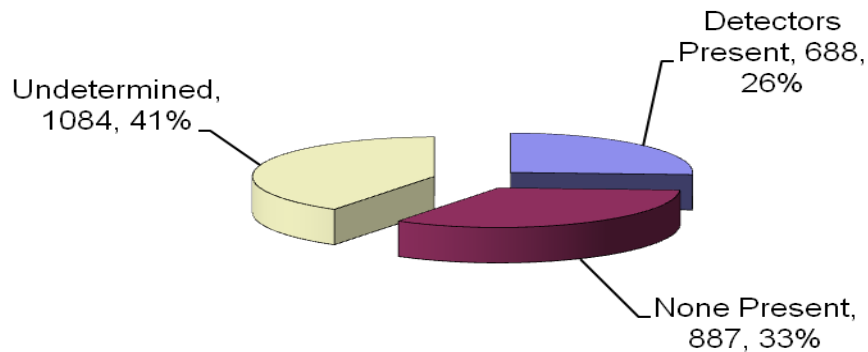
NOTE: Assembly occupancies include, but are not limited to, churches, restaurants, drinking establishments, auditoriums, nightclubs, courthouses and similar governmental buildings, museums, libraries, air and bus terminals, theaters, etc.

WEST VIRGINIA RESIDENTIAL FIRES FY 2009

RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE FIRES FY 2009



RESIDENTIAL SMOKE ALARM PRESENCE FY 2009



Note: ** The actual number of reported residential fires for this period is 3,204. The total of the smoke detector presence numbers above, if added, shows 2,613. This discrepancy is due to the Structure Fire by Property Use report, which counts all the 100 series incident type codes and then sorts by Property Use, including Confined Fires. The Tally Reports for Smoke Detector Presence and Operation would therefore exclude those confined fires (Incident type codes 113-118) since the Structure Fire Module is not typically completed for confined fires.

Smoke detector data comprises a mandatory field in NFIRS 5.0.

RESIDENTIAL SMOKE DETECTOR OPERATION FY 2009

